

Their batting eyes have been sharpened and the pitchers have thoroughly oiled their arms.

In the Whale camp there is a different story, and if Tinker's men hit the ball in the early stages of the league campaign it will be due solely to natural batting ability and not to the benefits of any practice they have secured on the southern trip.

Few ball teams have ever run into a worse spring season than that encountered by the Whales in Shreveport. Cold weather and high winds were the daily order and actual baseball work was possible at rare intervals. The pitchers managed to get a bit of work and are in good condition, but the batters are back in their stride.

Physically the team starts well. Tinker has hardened the athletes and they will be able to stand the pace. But their batting is liable to be punk for the first couple of weeks.

President Weeghman has strengthened the Whale pitching staff by the addition of George McConnell, released by the Cubs. McConnell still has some good baseball in his elongated frame, and would have been retained by Bresnahan but for the 21-player limit.

The work of Joe Benz on the home-ward jaunt of the White Sox indicates that the butcher may be able to take his regular place in the box earlier than was expected. He has had a couple of whirls at pitching, going the limit each time, and appearing strong at the finish.

His opposition has usually been poor, but he is not being judged on that score. There have been signs of his old-time speed and his spitter has twisted now and then as it did in 1914.

Rowland is planning some shifts in the personnel of the two squads which will enable him to get a better line on some of the athletes it is planned to use regularly during the coming season. Jack Fournier is to be recalled from the seconds and put

in left field, replacing Quinlan. The latter has done some good work, but he cannot hit with Fournier.

In the event Jack is sent to left the chances are Buck Weaver will be given the leadoff assignment, a position he has occupied before with credit to himself and benefit to the team.

Manager Bresnahan is giving his pitchers a shot at full nine-inning games now to determine which ones are capable of carrying the burden when the season opens a week from tomorrow. He used Standridge through a game Sunday and the recruit performed well.

Yesterday he gave Vaughn a whirl at Chattanooga, and Big Jim and his left-handed shoots were well maced by the southern people. He escaped until the ninth inning, but only good support saved him. He grew noticeably weak as the game progressed.

Cub hopes will get a severe setback if Vaughn is not right when the season opens. He has been relied on to do the major portion of the early season work, dividing with Cheney the iron man role. Larry is not quite ready to do as much work as usual, which means Vaughn will have plenty of opportunity to labor.

He will get some assistance from Lavender and Zabel, and possibly Adams or Stanbridge. Humphries isn't ready, and will not be for another month.

A little more agility on the bases wouldn't hurt the Cub prospects. Thirteen of them were stranded yesterday after getting to first.

Joe Lavigne, who fights under the name of Louisiana, almost took Kid Williams' bantam title last night in six rounds at Philadelphia. He sent Williams down for "five" and "nine," and got a decisive victory, but could not claim the title because of failure to knock the champ out.

BLOWING SOME

"The wind," said Mrs. Twickembury, "was blowing at a terrific velocity."—Christian Register.